Name: _____ Date: _____

A School Day in One Room

Circle group

Many children on farms in the 1800s went to a one-room school. There was one room and one teacher. Children from about six years old to teenagers sat together.

In a school today, each grade has its own room. In the one-room school, the teacher called one group at a time to practice reading or arithmetic. The others worked at their desks. Older students often helped the little ones with letters. Everyone learned to listen well. They could hear every lesson.

Paper cost a lot, so many students wrote on slates with chalk. They wiped the slates clean. A wood stove kept the room warm in winter. Students took turns bringing in firewood and fetching water. Most walked to school, sometimes a long way.

The school year was different too. Farm families needed help at planting and harvest time. Children might miss weeks of school. Even so, the one-room school gave many young people a chance to read, write, and do sums. Some of these small buildings are now museums.

Questions

1. How many rooms and teachers did a one-room school have?

_____

_____

2. What did many students write on?

_____

_____

3. How did students get to school?

_____

_____

4. How did older students help the little ones?

_____

_____

5. Why did children sometimes miss weeks of school?

_____

_____

6. Why did students learn to listen well?

_____

_____

Words to know

arithmetic: the part of math about adding, subtracting, and so on
slates: thin flat stones used for writing with chalk
harvest: the time when ripe crops are gathered
fetching: going to get something and bringing it back

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A School Day in One Room

Triangle group

Many children on farms in the 1800s went to a one-room schoolhouse. Just as the name says, there was only a single room and a single teacher. Children from about six years old to teenagers all sat together.

In a school today, each grade has its own classroom. In the one-room school, the teacher called up one group at a time to practice reading or arithmetic while the others worked at their desks. Older students often helped the little ones with their letters. Everyone learned to listen well, because they could hear every lesson.

Paper was costly, so many students wrote on slates with chalk and wiped them clean. A wood stove warmed the room in winter. Students took turns carrying in firewood and fetching water. Most of them walked to school, sometimes a long way.

The school year was different too. Farm families needed help at planting and harvest time, so children might miss weeks of school. Even so, the one-room school gave many young people a chance to read, write, and do sums. Some of these small buildings still stand today as museums.

Questions

1. How many rooms and teachers did a one-room school have?

_____

_____

2. What did many students write on, since paper was costly?

_____

_____

3. How did students get to school?

_____

_____

4. How did older students help the little ones?

_____

_____

5. Why did children sometimes miss weeks of school?

_____

_____

6. Why would students learn to listen well in a one-room school?

_____

_____

Words to know

schoolhouse: a small building used for a school
arithmetic: the part of math about adding, subtracting, and so on
slates: thin flat stones used for writing with chalk
harvest: the time when ripe crops are gathered
fetching: going to get something and bringing it back

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A School Day in One Room

Square group

Many children who lived on farms in the 1800s attended a one-room schoolhouse. As the name suggests, there was only a single room and a single teacher, and pupils ranging from about six years old to teenagers all sat together.

In a school today, each grade has its own classroom. In the one-room school, the teacher called up one group at a time to practice reading or arithmetic while the others worked quietly at their desks. Older students frequently assisted the younger ones with their letters. Everyone learned to listen carefully, because they could overhear every lesson.

Paper was expensive, so many students wrote on slates with chalk and wiped them clean when they were finished. A wood stove warmed the room during winter, and students took turns carrying in firewood and fetching water. Most of them walked to school, sometimes over a considerable distance.

The school year differed as well. Farm families needed extra help at planting and harvest time, so children might miss several weeks of school. Even so, the one-room school gave many young people the chance to read, write, and do sums, and some of these small buildings still stand today as museums.

Questions

1. How many rooms and teachers did a one-room schoolhouse have?

_____

_____

2. What did many students write on because paper was expensive?

_____

_____

3. How did most students travel to school?

_____

_____

4. How did older students assist the younger ones?

_____

_____

5. Why might children miss several weeks of school?

_____

_____

6. Why would students in a one-room school learn to listen carefully?

_____

_____

Words to know

schoolhouse: a small building used for a school
arithmetic: the part of math about adding, subtracting, and so on
slates: thin flat stones used for writing with chalk
harvest: the time when ripe crops are gathered
fetching: going to get something and bringing it back

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A School Day in One Room

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A School Day in One Room

Easier · 173 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. One room and one teacher.
2. Slates, with chalk.
3. Most walked, sometimes a long way.
4. They helped them with their letters.
5. Farm families needed help at planting and harvest time.
6. They could hear every lesson, even ones for other ages.

Triangle: A School Day in One Room

This passage · 188 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. One room and one teacher.
2. Slates, using chalk.
3. Most of them walked, sometimes a long way.
4. They helped them with their letters.
5. Farm families needed their help at planting and harvest time.
6. They could hear every lesson, even those for other ages.

Square: A School Day in One Room

Harder · 200 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. A single room and a single teacher.
2. Slates, using chalk.
3. Most of them walked, sometimes over a considerable distance.
4. They helped them with their letters.
5. Farm families needed extra help at planting and harvest time.
6. They could overhear every lesson, including those meant for other ages.